

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

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Discussion of Two Worlds in Conflict

"We and They," Third of Series, Contrasts Democratic with Fascist Government

HITLER FLINGS CHALLENGE

"One of Two Worlds Must Break Asunder," Says Fuehrer, Indicating No Compromise

This is the third in a series of five articles on "What the War Means to Us." This series is part of a discussion program sponsored by the United States Office of Education to provide the nation's youth with a better understanding of what we are fighting for in the present struggle.

This week the subject of discussion is *What "We" and "They" Stand For*. It is highly important that we should give careful consideration to this question. When people engage in a war, they should understand the principles for which they fight. In some wars, of course, no vital principles are at stake. Nations sometimes fight, for example, over boundary lines. Nothing more is involved than whether a bit of disputed territory should be under one flag or the other.

In the present war, however, people all over the world are fighting to determine what kinds of government shall exist, how much liberty people shall enjoy, what ideas about freedom, and religion, and property shall prevail. The struggle is for life or death. Adolf Hitler has said, "Two worlds are in conflict. . . . One of these two worlds must break asunder."

Two Worlds in Conflict

The United States Office of Education suggests that, during this third week of the discussion of *What the War Means to Us*, the schools should study and discuss the nature of these two worlds; that they give careful attention to the ideas and principles and rights which we are seeking to uphold for ourselves and the rest of the world, and that we give equal thought to the ideas and practices for which our enemies stand, and which they are trying to impose upon the entire world—including ourselves.

In this article, we shall continue the practice which we have followed in the two earlier ones; that is, of dealing with our problem through the question-and-answer method. Students and discussion leaders may make each of these questions the starting point for their studies and discussions.

How do the "two worlds" differ in their ideas of government?

The prevailing idea in Germany, in Italy, and in Japan is that a few rulers who have seized power shall govern the country, and that the people shall obey. It is said that the dictators know what is best for their

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Bataan Peninsula — MacArthur's Stronghold (see page 5)

A Word of Caution

By Walter E. Myer

Things are not going well these days. The war news is bad. We have suffered one defeat after another and we are told that further disappointments lie ahead. Under the circumstances, it is perhaps not surprising that there should be quite a little fault-finding. Most of us are inclined to blame someone else when things go wrong. Just now many people are criticizing our government and the governments of the other United Nations because of the continued defeats of our armed forces. Now it is all right to be critical of governmental policies. That is a privilege we have in a democracy. It is a good thing for people to be watchful and to demand efficiency of those in power. But in a time of grave national crisis one should be very careful with his criticisms. He should not be rash or headless. He should not jump to the conclusion that those charged with responsibility are to blame every time a defeat occurs.

Some of the criticisms which we hear these days are not carefully considered. For example, I have heard a good many people complaining about America's lack of preparation for war in the Far East. They have read that 500 planes in Manila and Singapore during the first days of the war might have turned the tide of battle, and they jump to the conclusion that it was very stupid of our government not to have had them there.

Let us examine that criticism a moment. It would have been a fine thing, to be sure, for us to have had planes enough in the Far East to check the Japanese and for us to have sent them there before the war started, assuming that we had them to send. But suppose we had started a year ago or two years ago to send them. Probably the Japanese would have known it the minute the movement began. And would they have sat by quietly waiting for us to get in a position to check them? Undoubtedly they would not. They would almost certainly have struck at that time—before the planes got there, for they have been in a state of preparedness for war for years. In that case, the beginning of the war would have seen us, then as now, outnumbered in planes in the Far East. There wasn't any way that we could obtain superiority in planes in those waters before the war started. It was simply impossible.

Knowing this, our government avoided an actual clash, played along with the Japanese, prevented the outbreak of war for months. During that time we could not move large forces to the danger zone, for the very beginning of such a movement would have precipitated war. But we could get a big defense program under way in our own country, and we did. When the war finally came, we didn't have a big air force in the war zone, but we were producing planes and other war supplies on a large scale. We were far better prepared for war than we would have been had it come a year earlier.

In this case the government wasn't so dumb. Give it the benefit of the doubt in other cases. Don't criticize unless you know your ground, and then do it constructively and not merely irritably.

Interest Shifts to Near East Countries

Germans and Japanese May Seek to Join Forces in This Vital Sector of World

OIL RESOURCES ARE GREAT

Possession by Axis Would Largely Meet Germany's Growing Need for New Oil Supplies

Berne, Istanbul, and Stockholm—neutral listening posts in an otherwise censor-sealed continent—are once again astir with reports of extensive Axis preparations for a decisive campaign in the Near and Middle East. There has been little fighting in Libya during the last six weeks. But this lull, it is said, is merely preparatory to an ambitious bid by Hitler for mastery over the Suez Canal, the Mediterranean, and the Middle Eastern bridge to India.

As evidence of the planned offensive, the reports tell of large-scale troop movements in southeastern Europe, with 10 Bulgarian divisions being held in readiness for a thrust through Turkey. Clusters of invasion barges are being assembled at Axis-held ports in the Black Sea and among the Aegean Islands. New units of the Nazi air force are arriving daily at enlarged airdromes on Crete. Small cargo vessels, that can easily elude the vigilance of Britain's Mediterranean fleet, are creeping back and forth along the French North African coast, unloading their munitions at the Axis supply base of Tripoli. And, accompanying all these moves, are constant military staff talks in Berlin, Rome, and Sofia.

Junction With Japan?

The decision to launch this campaign, according to diplomatic quarters in Turkey, was taken shortly after the outbreak of the Pacific war. It was included in a military alliance drawn up at that time between Germany, Italy, and Japan. The dispatches fail to indicate whether the offensive will be timed to coincide with the renewed drive against Russia, which Hitler has promised for the spring and which military observers believe will be in the direction of the Caucasus. But its purpose is clear. By piercing Allied positions in the Near and Middle East—in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan—the Nazis could advance to India and possibly effect a junction with the forces of their Japanese ally.

Underlying this scheme are a number of strategic and military considerations. Foremost, by all accounts, is the Axis need for oil, without which the most efficient military machine is helpless. The recurrent stories that Germany has just about exhausted its fuel reserves are generally discounted by conservative estimates. It remains true, nevertheless, that if the Reich is to be adequately pre-

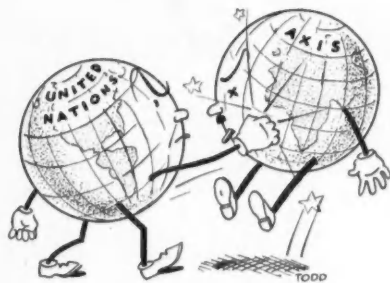
(Concluded on page 7)

"We and They"--Two Worlds in Conflict

(Continued from page 1)

countries; that they shall decide upon all policies. They appoint all officers down to the very lowest. The people have nothing whatever to say about these matters.

The idea in these countries is that the nation must be strong for war; it



Two worlds in conflict

must be powerful. It is the duty of the individual to do anything he is told to do for the purpose of making the nation strong. His own welfare counts for nothing. He is the servant of the government, and the government in each country is ruled by a small group of dictators. No one can question their decisions.

In the democratic countries which oppose the Germans, the Italians, and the Japanese, human life is considered sacred. In all these countries, it is thought that the best possible thing that could happen would be for all individuals and families to be well off; to be happy. Governments exist for the purpose of contributing to the welfare of the people. It is their business to serve the people.

In order to be sure that the governments in these countries serve the common good, they are run by the people themselves. The people elect their officials. They decide who shall operate their governments, and they also decide what policies shall be carried out.

The people in the democracies want their governments to be strong and powerful, but the purpose is the welfare of all. The test of whether a government is good is whether it really protects the welfare of its people.

No government lives up to that ideal completely. There is injustice and selfishness in the United States. But the people here have the legal power to correct abuses. Though we are not perfect, we are free to seek improvement, and that is what we have been doing throughout our history.

How do the United Nations and the Axis differ in their attitudes toward other nations?

We and our Allies believe that the people of the various nations should have the right to live as they see fit, and to have the kinds of government they choose. We are willing that these nations should be independent. If we win the war, nations like Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, the nations of the Western Hemisphere, and, in fact, all the established nations will be free, just as they were before the war. The people of these countries may go about their business as they have been doing through the years. We will not molest them. We do not want to rule them. We will interfere with them only if they become aggressive and try to conquer their neighbors. Our policy toward other countries is to "live and let live."

In times past, all the United Nations have, in certain instances, violated that rule. They have expanded at the expense of other countries. But such instances have been exceptional. The policy of conquering neighboring countries has never been adopted as the customary way of acting, and, during recent years, forcible expansion by the democratic nations has practically ceased. These nations now stand wholeheartedly against aggression and against the conquering of one country by another.

The Axis governments openly adopt the practice of conquest. They consider that it is their mission to rule other nations. If the Axis powers should win the war, there is no question that they would enslave the nations which they have conquered, as they have already done to Poland.

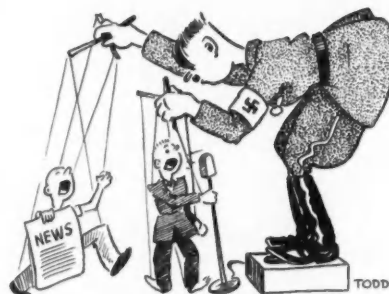
A statement of that kind is not mere guesswork. We can see already what the Germans plan to do if they



We have freedom of worship

win the war. They are now organizing the countries which they have conquered on a permanent basis. They are making countries such as Norway, Denmark, Holland, and Belgium, slave nations. They are moving all key industries, most useful in time of war, to Germany. They

are putting Germans in charge of the industries left in these countries. They are preventing the Norwegians, the Danes, the Dutch, and Belgians from getting technical educations. These people are to be mainly farmers and laborers. The Germans are to be the master race, ruling all conquered lands, with the conquered peoples doing menial work. Anyone who questions whether it is ac-



No freedom of speech

tually happening may get a picture of reality and a foretaste of what German victory would mean by reading *The Spoil of Europe*, by Thomas Reveille (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, \$2.75).

What "blessings of liberty" do we enjoy in this country that would be denied us in Germany? in Italy? in Japan? in enslaved France?

Among them are these:

1. *Freedom of speech and press.* In the United States, even in wartime, one may speak freely about the policies of the government. The newspapers are free to criticize what the government does, provided they do not say anything which actually helps our enemies in their war against us. In Germany, Italy, and Japan, freedom of speech and press disappeared many years ago with the rise of totalitarian governments. In each of these countries, newspapers, magazines, and radio broadcasting are subject to rigid censorship by party officials. These limitations have been imposed upon those permitted to work as newspaper editors, magazine writers, and radio broadcasters. The men selected are chosen less because of their ability as journalists than because of their proved loyalty to the dictators.

2. *Freedom of religion.* Our churches are not molested. They go about their activities as usual. One may adhere to any religion he chooses and may worship as he pleases. In the Axis countries, religious worship is everywhere interfered with by the government. In Germany, the government controls the finances of the churches and it regulates church services. The Nazis now control all the funds of the Protestant Church. They are in a position, therefore, to stop the salaries of preachers who refuse to follow Nazi orders. They do not hesitate to employ the secret police in forcing unwilling preachers into line. A number of Protestant ministers who have questioned the authority of the state over the church have been placed in concentration camps.

The Nazis have interfered also with the Catholic Church. They have charged large numbers of priests and monks with crime, and have spread terror among them. They have interfered with Catholic youth groups.

Many of the Nazi leaders have condemned all Christian religions. All religious programs have been banned from the air. Display of Bibles and church tracts is prohibited.

3. *Rights before the law.* In the Axis countries, no citizen is wholly free from arbitrary punishment by the state. There are courts of law, to be sure, but individuals held not guilty by these courts are frequently seized by the secret police whose authority is beyond repeal.

In our own country, as in other democratic states, the property of no citizen may be seized by the government without just and adequate payment, and no person can be imprisoned unless he has been proved guilty after a fair trial in a court of law.

In what respects does the regulation of business in the United States differ from regulation under National Socialism in Germany?

In any country which is organized for "total war," all business must be very closely regulated. It is so regulated in the United States today. An owner of a business may be called upon by the government in this country to stop manufacturing the articles he has been producing, and to begin manufacturing articles needed for carrying on the war. Manufacturers engaged in producing unnecessary goods may be denied raw materials and may have to close down. An owner of a business may be told that he cannot charge more than a certain price for his product. He may be told what wages he must pay and how many hours his employees may be worked. Most of his profits may be taken as taxes.

In Germany, regulation has gone even further than that. Not only are all these controls imposed by the government, but the government frequently selects the managers to operate the plants. Nazi party leaders are put in charge of factories.

But there is this further difference. In the United States, many—though not all—of these controls are con-



Labor is under the whip

sidered temporary. They will be abandoned when peace comes. In Germany, however, the nation is organized permanently on a war basis. The purpose of the Nazis is, first, to conquer other countries, and then to hold them in subjection. Germany is a military state, and the controls over industry are not thought of as temporary, but are permanent in form and nature. A large measure of freedom in industry is still our goal, and any business regulations which are continued after the war will be decided upon by the people and not by a few dictatorial leaders at the top.

Contrast the attitudes and policies of the German government and the United States government toward labor unions.

Important Announcement

We have been flooded with requests for the pamphlet, "What the War Means to Us." As a result, our supply is nearing exhaustion and we are unable to fill the orders sent in by thousands of students. Teachers, however, will still be able to obtain the pamphlets in limited numbers.

Those students who do not receive copies should not be disappointed, for the pamphlet is actually a teacher's outline. It contains mostly questions for classroom study. In our articles, we are reprinting these same questions and discussing them at length. Thus our readers are getting everything that is in the pamphlet, and considerably more.

We are greatly pleased with the interest which is being shown in this series of articles on the war. American youth is displaying a determination to play its part by understanding what we are fighting for, by helping to achieve victory on the field of battle, and by studying plans for a lasting peace.

In Germany, labor unions are absolutely forbidden. In the United States, they are not only permitted by the government, but are encouraged; that is, the government prevents employers from discriminating against workers who join unions. It compels employers to deal with labor unions whenever their workmen, through their free choice, form themselves into such unions.

Compare government controls of education in Germany and in the United States.

In Germany, education is controlled by the national government; that is, by the Nazi party under Hitler. The Nazis decide what shall be taught in every school of the land, what books shall be used, and which ones shall be forbidden. It employs all the teachers and supervises them closely.

In the United States, the schools are controlled by local boards of education, and these boards of education are elected by the people of the various communities. Education is, there-

In the United States, millions of young people are being taught to read widely, to discuss all public questions freely, and to form their own ideas independently.

Education in the United States is, of course, not perfect. Many youths do not take advantage of their opportunities. They sometimes remain ignorant or prejudiced. Many of them fail to serve the cause of democracy as zealously as the Germans serve Nazi principles. The ideal of freedom in education is maintained in America, however, and those who have the will to do so may take advantage of it.

Suggested Activities

1. Divide the class into committees to review the main features of the following documents: (a) the Declaration of Independence; (b) the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States; (c) the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States; (d) Wilson's Flag Day Address of June 14, 1917; (e) the Atlantic Charter.

2. Have one member of the class present a review of the essential points in Douglas Miller's book, *You Can't Do Business with Hitler*.

3. Post on your billboard clippings from United States newspapers and magazines the publication of which would be prohibited in Axis dominated countries.

4. Ask a representative of the local newspaper to describe to the class how a modern newspaper secures its material.

5. Have a committee prepare and conduct an "Information Please" program in which questions bring out the contrast between the democratic and Axis peoples, leaders, literature.

6. Prepare a radio dramatization contrasting the administration of justice in the United States and in Germany and the other Axis countries.

7. Compile a list of quotations from the speeches and writings of Axis leaders which illustrate the beliefs discussed in this unit.

8. Compile a list of quotations from American statesmen and authors which illustrate the philosophy of our democracy.



No freedom of teaching

fore, in the hands of the people themselves.

In Germany, students are taught obedience to the Nazi leaders. They are given no instruction whatever concerning public problems, for they have no power to decide these questions. They are taught what the Nazis want them to learn. They are taught, for example, that the Germans are a superior people; that they should rule other nations. Children throughout Germany are taught that the people of the United States are weak; that they are composed of the dregs and outcasts of other nations, and that democracy is a total failure.

SMILES

"He's a man of few words, you know."
"Yes, so he's been telling me all afternoon."
—LABOR

You'll never stumble on anything good while sitting down.
—RAYS OF SUNSHINE

"My girl gets more out of a novel than anybody I know."
"How's that?"

"Well, she always starts in the middle, so she's not only wondering how it will all end, but how it began."
—ANSWERS

Wife: "Oh, John, I'm so nervous. I just feel there's a mouse under the bed."
Husband: "Well, just feel there's a cat under there, too, and go back to sleep."
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

"I never told lies when I was a boy."
"When did you begin, Dad?"—LABOR

"Well, have your fiancée's people accepted you yet?"
"I'll say they have. I got bawled out last night for using the guest towel."
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

1940—No running boards.
1941—No gear shifts.
1942—No tires.
1943—No cars.
—GRIT

Host: "Come right in. Don't mind the dog."
Visitor: "Doesn't he bite?"
Host: "That's what I want to find out. We just bought him this morning."
—DELCO DOINGS

Judge: "Did you have complete command of yourself at the time of the accident?"
Motorist: "No, your honor. My wife was with me."
—TRANSIT NEWS



"It's an old globe of the world. I just had a slip cover made for it!"
—BEAVER IN AMERICAN MAGAZINE



LAND BATTLE CRUISER. At right is the very newest steel monster of the armored forces, an M-4 medium tank. Completely streamlined, lower in silhouette than the M-3 at left, it is equipped with a rivetless, all-cast body.

A Week of the War

Army engineers have started the work of laying out pioneer roads for the highway to Alaska through Canada. The rough, temporary routes which they are pushing through will be developed into a modern highway at some later time. The land route is necessary because sea lanes to Alaska are in constant danger of submarine attacks.

American naval forces clashed with Japanese aircraft recently near the Gilbert Islands—about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. When the smoke cleared away, 16 of the 18 enemy planes were destroyed, a victory so complete that it was said to be without parallel among the exploits of American airmen. The outstanding hero of the U. S. naval aviators who took part in the engagement was Lieutenant Edward H. O'Hare. He bagged six of the heavy bombers, and thus became an aerial ace—one who has shot down five or more enemy planes.



"Ace" O'Hare

Marines serving both in Panama and in Iceland are living in the same type of steel shelters. The only difference is that those at Panama have screen doors and windows at each end, while the ones in Iceland have their ends sealed up with wooden bulkheads. The shelters are called "Quonset huts" because they were made at Quonset, Rhode Island.

Men's suits are losing trouser cuffs, pleats, and other cloth-consuming features, by order of the War Production Board. Two-trouser suits and vests for double-breasted suits are also ruled out. The order is expected to save between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 pounds of raw wool.

FBI and police raids on enemy aliens in recent weeks have uncovered enough dynamite to destroy many bridges, dams, and factories, and nearly enough firearms to equip a regiment. The number of Germans, Italians, and Japanese taken into custody since December 7 now totals over 5,300.

Model plane builders who take part in the construction of 500,000 models

for the Navy will receive the following aircraftman rating certificates for their efforts: Cadet aircraftman (for one model), ensign (three), lieutenant junior grade (five), lieutenant (seven), lieutenant commander (eight), commander (nine), captain (ten). Above the rank of cadet, however, the number must include various planes of specific types.

Letters written to soldiers who are serving on distant fronts are to be photographed on motion picture film, flown to the destinations, and delivered in the form of photostatic copies. The Army says that the new method will conserve valuable cargo space, and will provide speedier and safer service. More than 1,000,000 pieces of mail are handled every day by the Army postal service.

For gardeners: The Department of Agriculture has prepared a pamphlet called "Victory Gardens." Written especially for the inexperienced gardener, its contents include such information as "Schemes for a Very Small Garden" and "Approximate Time to Plant Certain Vegetables." Copies are on sale, at five cents each, by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

A number of restaurants in New York City are listing defense stamps, along with pie, ice cream, and cake, among the choices for dessert. Patrons can thus eliminate rich foods from their diet and help the war effort at the same time. It depends on the price of meals in the restaurant whether 10-cent, 25-cent, or 50-cent stamps are "served." Some places are also selling a new dime drink called the "Jap Slapper"—a glass of water and a 10-cent defense stamp.

Price Control Chief Leon Henderson, once more trying to make the nation understand the seriousness of the rubber shortage, says these steps may be necessary: Taking tires off nonessential civilian cars; setting a nation-wide speed limit of 40 miles an hour; rationing gasoline "to reduce recreation driving."



The Week at Home

Money Matters

Congress had just finished acting on the largest appropriation in the nation's history—\$32,000,000,000 for the Army, lend-lease, and merchant shipping—when it started work on the annual tax bill a few days ago. As required by the Constitution, the first steps were taken in the House of Representatives. Its Ways and Means Committee, with North Carolina's Representative Robert L. Doughton as chairman, listened to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau recommend the greatest outlay of taxes in American history.

Present tax laws, Mr. Morgenthau said, will bring in revenues at the rate of \$17,390,000,000 a year. The Treasury wants new levies added which total \$9,610,000,000 in order that the government may take in \$27,000,000,000 a year. Although all taxes would have to be boosted to



HIGH FINANCE. Chairman Robert L. Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., discuss the new tax proposals.

obtain this amount, the greatest increases would be in income taxes, which would be about doubled for most income groups. Recommendations by Mr. Morgenthau and by others will be considered as the final tax bill is put into shape.

Even with the increased taxes which are sure to come, spending will be far ahead of collections by the Treasury. Taxes proposed by Mr. Morgenthau will pay for less than half the \$59,000,000,000 which the war will cost in 1943. The rest must be borrowed in such forms as defense stamps and bonds, and Congress is raising the national debt limit from \$65,000,000,000 to \$125,000,000,000.

Fortunately the public has more money with which to pay taxes and to buy defense bonds. Last week the Department of Commerce reported that the national income in 1941 was

\$94,500,000,000, the best on record. It also estimated that for 1942 the figure will be \$113,000,000,000.

Target Areas

Large portions of the map of the United States have been marked off by the Office of Civilian Defense and the War Department as target areas—regions most likely to be hit by enemy attacks. Last week the OCD announced that the main target area is a strip extending 300 miles inland from the Atlantic, the Gulf, and the Pacific coasts. In addition, 33 industrial centers farther inland have been designated as probable enemy targets.

The purpose in outlining these areas is to decide where to send the gas masks, steel helmets, gasproof capes, first-aid supplies, and fire-fighting equipment which will be purchased with part of the \$100,000,000 provided by Congress for civilian defense. There is not nearly enough to go around among the 55,000,000 people living in target areas, so the distribution will have to be narrowed still further. Some cities will receive none of the supplies, because centers with the greatest industrial importance will be given preference. A fairly large city, in fact, is likely to receive less of the equipment than a much smaller town which has a vital war industry.

Food Guide

"United States needs us strong—eat nutritional food" is the slogan which accompanies the new food guide published a few days ago by the Federal Security Agency. The guide is part of a nation-wide campaign, about to be launched, which will stress the importance of eating the right foods for health and victory.

The guide takes the latest scientific findings of food research and puts them into easy-to-follow rules. An adequate daily diet, it says, should include the following:

Milk and milk products—at least a pint for everyone, more for children, or cheese or evaporated or dried milk.

Oranges, tomatoes, grapefruit—or raw cabbage or salad greens, at least one of these.

Green or yellow vegetables—one big helping or more, some raw, some cooked.

Other vegetables, fruits—potatoes,



ARMY HIGH COMMAND. Under the President's order the U. S. Army has been reorganized for greater efficiency. The top men are, left to right (seated): Lieutenant General Arnold in command of air forces; General Marshall, chief of staff; Lieutenant General McNair, in command of ground forces. (Standing): Major General McNarney, deputy chief of staff, and Major General Somervell, commander of the services of supply.

other vegetables or fruits in season.

Bread and cereals—whole grain products or enriched white bread and flour.

Meat, poultry, or fish—dried beans, peas or nuts occasionally.

Eggs—at least three or four a week, cooked any way you choose, or in "made" dishes.

Butter and other spreads—vitamin-rich fats, peanut butter, etc.

More Speed Wanted

Plans were well under way last week to carry out War Production Chief Donald Nelson's recent orders for increasing production. To bring about more teamwork, he has arranged for war industry workers to be informed "how the plane, the tank, the gun, or ship they have constructed has performed." The Army and Navy will have men in action report directly to the workers on how the various instruments of warfare are measuring up.

Mr. Nelson is striving to have every war industry machine kept busy 168 hours a week. Awards will be given to both laborers and industrial leaders for outstanding accomplishments. And committees representing both will be set up in each plant.

Production in 1942, Mr. Nelson has re-emphasized, must reach the goals of 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, and

8,000,000 tons of shipping if victory is to be within our grasp.

Army Overhauled

Down through the years, the United States Army has taken on new duties and added new forces, but often it has grown haphazardly. Now it is to be changed into a compact organization, suited to the tremendous task of winning a modern war.

The streamlining went into effect last week, as ordered by President Roosevelt, commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Under the new plan, the entire Army is grouped in three classifications:

Ground forces, under Lieutenant General Leslie J. McNair. This group combines the infantry, cavalry, field artillery, and coast artillery, all of which had been separate groups, into a single organization.

Air forces, under Lieutenant General Henry H. Arnold. For the first time, aviation is now on an equal footing with the other branches of the Army, and air commanders will have an equal voice in mapping the strategies of warfare.

Services of supply, under Major General Brehon Somervell. This group takes over the entire burden of supplying the Army with everything needed, relieving the other forces of such duties.

At the top of the Army, of course, is General George C. Marshall, who remains as chief of staff.

Newly appointed as deputy chief of staff is Major General Joseph T. McNarney, 48-year-old air officer.

On the same day that the Army reorganization went into effect, important changes were made in the Navy high command. Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the U. S. Fleet, was made supreme Navy commander, responsible only to President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Navy Knox. King, whose new position parallels that of Marshall in the Army, thus takes over the duties of the chief of naval operations. Admiral Harold Stark, who had held that post, was named commander of the U. S. naval forces operating in European waters.

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BIGGEST GRAVEYARD: A view of the largest scrapyard on the Atlantic coast. Located near Norfolk, Virginia, it collects cars which have outlived their usefulness, slices them up with large scissors and crushes them by machine into 125-pound scrap-metal bundles.

The Week Abroad

The Fronts

The Japanese, maintaining the lightning pace that has marked their offensive since the march through Malaya, were in control last week of all key points in Java. In little over a week, they had blasted the core of the Dutch navy, landed strong forces on the island's northern beaches, and pierced the mountain rampart behind which the Dutch and their allies hoped to wage a prolonged defense.

Last week, communications with the island had been cut. But Dutch officials in London said that Java's defenders will fight it out with the Japanese to the last—that, if need be, they will take to remote hills, to swamps, and lava glens, there to write a chapter of as stubborn guerrilla warfare as has already been written in Bataan Peninsula.

cist army, he launched an offensive against the British in Libya and in a few weeks pushed beyond the Egyptian frontier.

This year again he halted a British offensive, even after a large part of his tank strength had been destroyed and after London sources had written him off as finished. For his feat, he was raised by Hitler from the rank of general to that of marshal. There are reports that Hitler may recall Rommel from North Africa in the near future and give him active command of the projected spring offensive against the Russian armies.

New Bases

Strong supply bases are one of the most pressing needs of the United Nations, both for resisting enemy attacks and for striking back at the Axis. In the Far East, bases which were formerly depended upon have been lost, or are seriously endangered by the long-reaching foe. Entirely new strongholds, with well-protected life lines reaching to the United States and Britain, must therefore be built.

Information concerning plans for two such bases, one within reach of the Far East and the other to serve Africa and the Middle East, was revealed several days ago. A three-man mission from the United States had arrived in India to survey her resources for war, and one of its purposes was believed to be laying the groundwork for a tremendous supply base there, perhaps at the southernmost tip, on the Island of Ceylon.

At the same time, it was reported that work is now well advanced on a United States naval and supply base in Eritrea, North Africa. The former Italian colony lies along the southern tip of the Red Sea, and the vast arsenal which is growing there will have the task of protecting both the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. These two fingers of water, extending northward from the Indian Ocean, are life lines without which the United Nations could not successfully defend the Middle East. Without adequate supply bases in the various theaters of war, the naval and mili-

tary forces of the United States and its Allies cannot operate against the enemy.

Time for Offensive?

The United Nations' policy of successive retreats to new defensive positions came under sharp attack last week as the Japanese added Java to the vast region in the Southwest Pacific now under their effective control. Many critics asked whether the time had not come for a complete revision of our strategy, for abandoning the notion that we should fight "delaying actions" until we had achieved superiority over the Axis in arms production. To permit Japan to retain the initiative, these critics declared, might mean the loss also of Australia and New Zealand. With these last outposts in the Far Pacific gone, it would be a stupendous task, requiring perhaps a generation to overcome Japan's military power.

High officials have indicated that both Washington and London are giving consideration to the possibility of launching an offensive against the enemy. But at the same time they emphasize the difficulties involved in assembling sufficient striking power for a major drive in the Far East. For the present, at least, the United Nations may have to confine themselves to harassing operations, raids against the Japanese supply lines, and scattered attacks by air and sea upon enemy outposts.

A more promising prospect is an offensive in Europe. The British have nearly 2,000,000 well-trained troops on their island. They are being reinforced by American arrivals. With the Russians pressing hard against Germany on its eastern front, some military experts contend that an attack across the channel into France or northward against Norway would compel Hitler to divide his forces. Soviet quarters, in urging a move of this kind, suggest that it may even bring about Germany's defeat before the close of the year.

Britain's "Black Markets"

Widespread violations of the rationing laws, reminiscent of American experience during the prohibition era, have brought about angry demands by the British public for



SCHOOL MEALS are delivered in trailers from central kitchens in England. These boys help to unload the trailer carrying their hot dinners.

vigorous government action. The rationing system was designed to provide a fair distribution of the limited goods available to the public and to build up reserves against an emergency.

But in the last few months, unscrupulous operators have found schemes for beating the rationing system. By the use of forged ration coupons, sold at fantastic prices, and by other evasions of the law, they have set up a network of "black markets" throughout the country. How these "black market" operations are carried on is a long and involved story, many details of which are obscure. There is no mystery, however, about their effects upon the consuming public. Those who have the money and are untroubled by shady dealings get more than their rightful share of food and clothes. Those who are unable or unwilling to pay a premium have to do without many things.

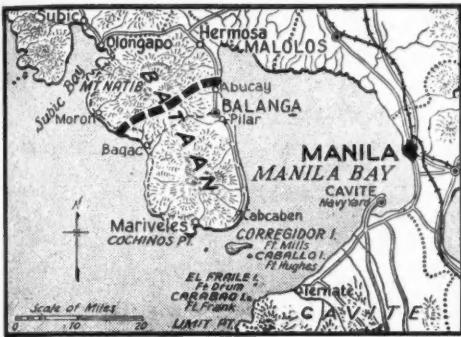
The British are a law-abiding people. They have a strong, if not always loudly proclaimed, sense of civic responsibility. Yet curiously many Britons, who would shudder at the thought of evading the income tax, do not hesitate to break the rationing laws by patronizing the "black markets." Some London newspapers are now urging that the only way to break the racket is through the imposition of the most severe penalties. A few have gone so far as to call for the death sentence for those found guilty of violations.

Pronunciations

Caucasus—ko'kah-sus
Ceylon—see-lon'
Eritrea—eh-ree-tray'ah
Iran—ee-rah'n'
Iraq—ee-rahk'
Oran—oe-rah'n'
Rommel—roe-mell'
Tomoyuhi Yamashita—toe-moe-yoo'shee
yah-mah-shee'tah

NOTICE

As soon as the series of articles, "What the War Means to Us," running currently in The American Observer, is concluded, the articles on South America, by Walter E. Myer, will be resumed. There will be two more articles in the war series; therefore, the South American series will be resumed in the April 6 issue of The American Observer.



BATAAN PENINSULA, where General MacArthur holds his lines and repulses one Japanese attack after another.

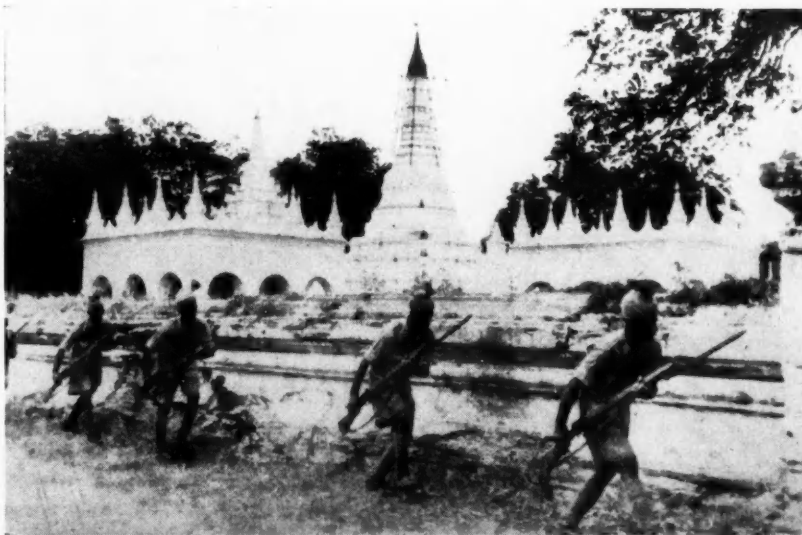
MacArthur and his men, in the comradeship of a lonely struggle, have shown how an overwhelming force can be held at bay from carefully chosen positions. By last week, they had given the foe so much annoying trouble that Tokyo reportedly decided upon a change of command in the Philippines. The new commander is General Tomoyuhi Yamashita, who led the Japanese campaign against Malaya and Singapore. Equally newsworthy was the report that the Japanese occupation forces had ordered Filipinos to turn in all weapons and even knives, indicating that civilian resistance was mounting throughout the islands.

On Europe's eastern front, the Russian forces maintained a tight grip upon the German divisions trapped within a great arc south of Leningrad. Russian sources said that the number of encircled forces was not 96,000, as they had first believed, but 250,000.

Marshal Erwin Rommel

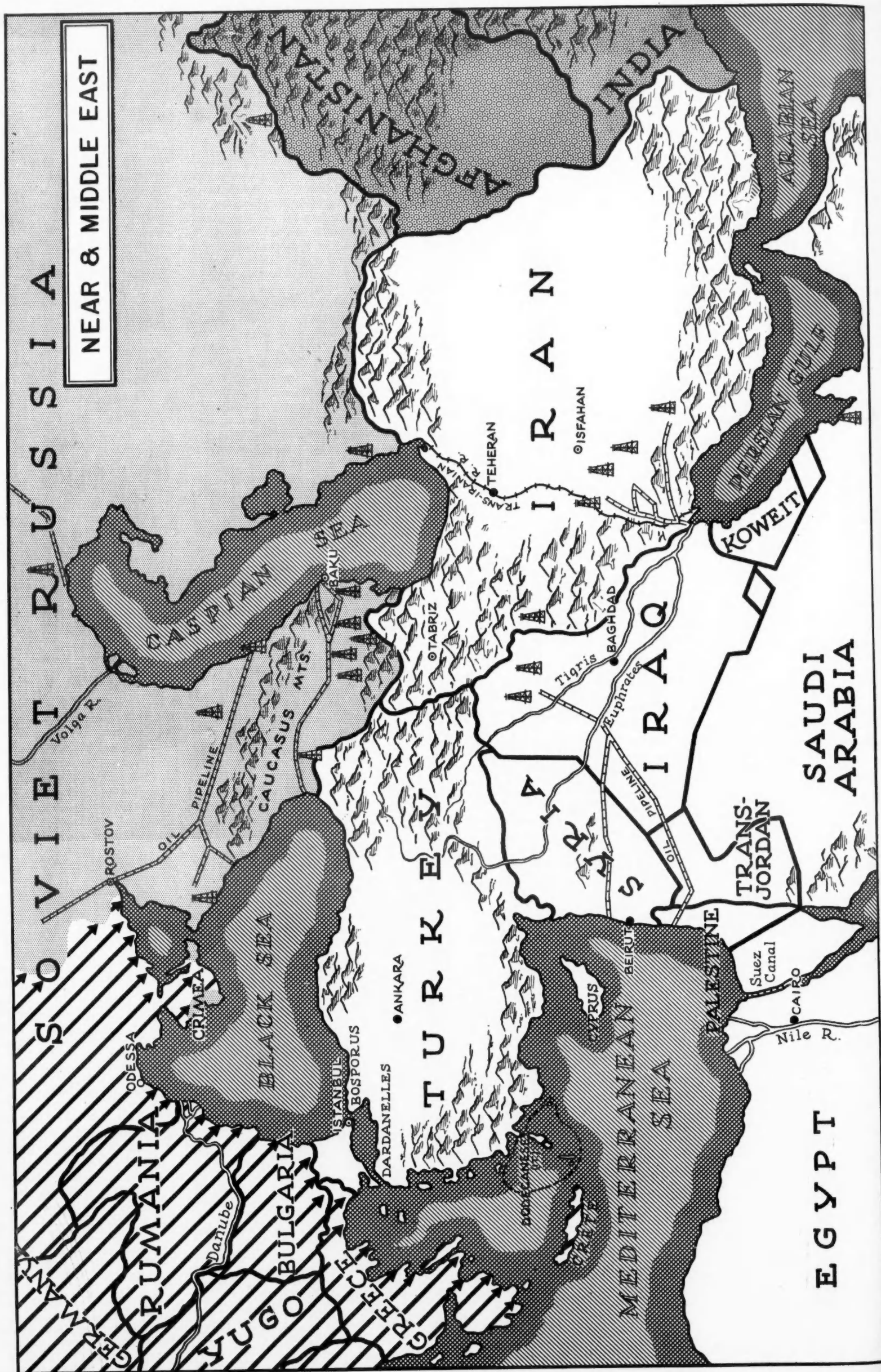
This war has blasted the reputation of many a general considered tops in pre-war years. It has also brought to the fore other commanders who once held secondary rank. In this latter group is Marshal Erwin Rommel, who is head of the Axis armies in Libya. An informal list of the world's "10 best generals" compiled a few days ago by military observers in London included two Germans. One of them was Rommel.

He made his mark a year ago, after Britain's General Wavell had sent the Italian armies in North Africa into headlong rout. With two hastily organized tank divisions, supported by what remained of the Fas-



BURMA-INDIAN troops with bayoneted rifles, as they engaged in maneuvers near Mandalay. These men are crack jungle fighters and many are now seeing service against the Japanese.

Near and Middle East May Be Spring War Theater



Near East May Be Crucial Battle Ground

(Concluded from page 1)

pared for a long war of attrition, it must substantially expand the petroleum sources upon which it can draw.

Total oil production in Nazi-controlled Europe, including synthetic fuels, amounts to about 10,000,000 tons a year (the United States produces 193,000,000 a year). This was more than adequate for the swift campaigns in Western Europe and the Balkans. The long struggle on the eastern front, however, has eaten deeply into available reserve supplies. And the German military machine today is burning up oil, it is reported, at a rate that substantially exceeds current output.

Oil Resources

The oil resources of the Caucasus, of Iraq, and of Iran—particularly those of the Caucasus—are more than sufficient to meet all probable German needs. The Russians and British would no doubt blast the wells at the enemy's approach. But they could be put into operation again probably within six months. With these resources at their command, the Germans would have broken the blockade of Europe. Moreover, the United Nations would be deprived of their last petroleum supplies in all Europe and Asia, thereby putting an enormous strain upon the already overtaxed tanker fleet which now carries fuel from the Western Hemisphere to the European and Asiatic battlefields.

A successful penetration of the Near and Middle East would earn the Axis other dividends. It might well upset all Allied plans for the conduct of the war in both Europe and Asia. Basic Allied strategy calls for a continuous stream of weapons to Russia, so that the Soviet armies can continue to pound their hammer blows at the heart of Axis might. The bulk of American and British shipments to the Soviet Union now moves by way of South Africa, across the Indian Ocean to ports on the Persian Gulf. From there they are sent by rail across Iran. Materials can be brought to the Soviet front across the North Atlantic to Arctic ports. But these ports are not equipped to handle supplies in large volume. Thus, the loss of Iran to the Axis would mean the virtual isolation of the Soviet Union with unpredictable effects upon the entire course of the war. With respect to the Far Eastern struggle, it would likewise force a radical revision of the plans now being drafted for supplying the Chinese armies by way of India's ports.

To Forestall Allied Offensive

The need for forestalling a possible Allied offensive through Italy and the Balkans has undoubtedly also had a part in these Axis calculations. Some military circles in Washington, London, and Moscow have for some time urged an attack upon the continent by way of the Mediterranean. They have pointed to Italy as the weak link of the Axis coalition. They have noted the unrest and rebellion that has swept across Yugoslavia. It may be questioned whether the United Nations are in a position to launch a drive of this kind. But so long as the possibility exists, Hitler is compelled to divert many of his divisions to keep guard in southern Europe. Con-



MISSION IN THE DESERT. These are American Glenn Martin Maryland bombers speeding away to attack enemy targets in Libya. This medium type bomber has a splendid record of achievement in the Middle East.

quest of the Near and Middle East, closing the Mediterranean Sea to the United Nations and turning it into an Axis inland waterway, would eliminate this threat.

It would do more. It would extend the reach of Hitler's power to the western coast of Africa, and, more effectively than ever, to the sea lanes of the south Atlantic. There have been persistent reports that the Germans, with Vichy's connivance, now enjoy refueling facilities for their submarines in the French African port of Dakar, only 1,600 miles from the Brazilian bulge.

Vichy Moves

The Vichy government, with the approval of Berlin, has been busying itself for months with the construction of a railroad to reach across the Sahara from the Mediterranean port of Oran to Dakar. This railroad has little potential commercial value. That the French, impoverished by defeat, should nevertheless be spending great sums upon this trans-Saharan railway suggests that something more than commercial considerations are involved. It suggests that the Nazis see the project as a military venture that will begin to pay the Axis profitable returns, once the Mediterranean is in its hands.

Whether Hitler has the resources to carry through so vast an operation is another question. The bulk of his armies, at the moment, are fully engaged in Russia. Far from being ready to spring an offensive, they have not yet been able to halt the Russian counterattack, which continues to bend back the German lines along nearly the entire front. Even if they should succeed in stabilizing their lines in the next few weeks, they will still be faced with a foe who has shown himself stubborn and resourceful, especially on the defensive. And until the Russian forces are checked, Hitler can hardly take the risk of sending a large expeditionary force to the Near East. To do so would be to invite the danger of a Soviet thrust into Germany itself.

Hitler does have a fair-sized army in Libya. It is being reinforced by

General Rommel. But this past winter's campaign on the western desert has failed to demonstrate Rommel's superiority over the British in this area. And it is highly doubtful whether the supplies he can bring across the hunted Mediterranean sea lanes can match the reinforcements which we and Britain are now sending by way of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

The British, incidentally, were rather bitterly disappointed over their failure to wipe out the Axis North African armies. But it is essential to note that the British employed only a fraction of the power which they have in the Near East. If the Russians can hold their Caucasian barrier, the British will be able to throw into Libya reserves which have hitherto been kept in Iraq and Iran. An isolated thrust from Libya toward the Suez Canal does not have bright prospects of success, unless the Axis can do away with British naval strength in the Mediterranean.

The German dictator, through a combination of threats and promises, has made repeated efforts to obtain the French fleet. Together with Italian naval units, it would give the Axis a decisive margin in Mediterranean sea power. But until now, at least, Marshal Pétain, head of the Vichy government, has turned a deaf ear to this form of collaboration. Only a few days ago, in fact, he assured the United States that French war vessels would not be placed at Germany's disposal. The ambiguous wording of his written pledge has not stilled misgivings about Vichy's ultimate intentions. But until that pledge is violated, British superiority in the Mediterranean remains basically unchecked.

What aid the British can count upon from the peoples of the Near and Middle East is uncertain. There are few heavy industries in the entire region. The native armies of Iran and Iraq have little modern equipment. In Palestine, the British have been reluctant to recruit a force of Jewish colonists, in spite of widespread demands, out of fear that

such a move would arouse the Arab population.

Turkey, however, is an important military factor. The Turks, before the start of the war, had an armed force of nearly 200,000 men. They have a reputation for being tough fighters. They have received some equipment from England and would be a valuable addition to the United Nations. But Turkey's position in the struggle has never been made wholly clear. The one thing that Turkish officials have announced unreservedly is that they would resist any invasion of their soil.

British Precaution

In the last year, the British have tackled the problem of potentially dangerous fifth-column activities all the way from Syria to Iran. Mussolini, in his efforts to revive Rome's ancient empire, had long ago proclaimed himself "the protector of Islam"; and he had dispensed funds liberally in order to win Fascist supporters in the Near East. His work did not go to waste. Italian agents, subsequently aided by Germans, built up a network of anti-British espionage and intrigue that embraced high officials in every Near Eastern land.

In Syria, the British and their Free French allies were compelled to fight a full-scale battle to prevent the colony from being turned into a corridor for German armies. Only timely action prevented the oil wealth of Iraq from being sabotaged by the Axis. And in Iran, the British acted in concert with the Soviet Union, to set up a regime which would be friendly toward Allied needs.

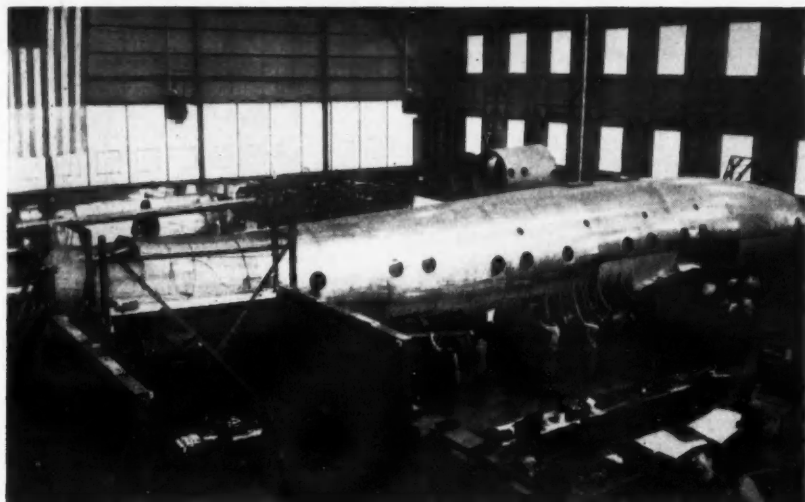
If it were not for these measures, the position of the United Nations in the eastern Mediterranean would have been far more precarious than it is today.

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Turkish soldier



SKY-GIANT. Construction is well under way on "The Constellation," huge 57-passenger transport plane which blazes new trails in aviation.

Giant Transport Planes

REPORTS that the United States has begun production of transport planes larger than any ever built came as cheering news to the hard-fighting men of China last week. It helped to offset the bad news that the Japanese had cut the Burma Road, the only important supply route connecting China with her American and British allies.

Aviation may provide the means of giving China a new supply route—an avenue of traffic over which goods can be moved safely and swiftly through the air. Before very long, huge planes may be taking off from bases in India or Russia, carrying weapons of war to the Chinese armies under Chiang Kai-shek. Artillery, motor cars, light tanks, and other bulky equipment may be moved over the mountains and through the clouds to aid China in carrying on the war against Japan.

It will take time, of course, to do this on a large scale. Construction of the great transport ships is barely under way. The United States Army, which has many war fronts to think about, must decide how soon any of them can be sent to China. It may be necessary, until these very latest planes are ready, to press a number of standard 21-passenger air-liners into service. By removing seats and other nonessential fixtures, it is said

that these planes can be adapted so as to carry three tons of cargo. If enough of them can be operated back and forth across the 800-mile route between Chungking and India, they will help to make up for the loss of the Burma Road.

The super transport plane on which the greatest hopes are pinned—both for China's sake and for the other United Nations—is being developed as a result of the pioneering activities of Transcontinental and Western Airlines. After being kept secret for over two years, it was revealed several days ago that the giant craft is capable of carrying 57 passengers—almost three times as many as the standard 21-passenger main liner—or a large quantity of freight. The first of the type, known as the *Constellation*, will be completed in June.

The sleek sky ship will fly higher, faster, and farther than the strato-liners which, when TWA put them into service two years ago, were considered the last word in efficiency. Superchargers in the new plane will keep plenty of oxygen in the air for passengers and crew to breathe, even though the flight goes near to the maximum altitude of 30,000 feet. The plane, equipped with four 2,500-horsepower motors, can cruise along at 283 miles an hour while using only half its power, and has a top speed of 350 miles an hour. It can cross the continent nonstop in 8½ hours, compared with TWA's fastest schedule now—a little over 13 hours. At the end of a transcontinental hop, it will still have enough fuel to seek out a clear landing field in case its regular stop is fog-bound.

Forty of these planes, according to TWA, could carry 16,000 troops to Alaska in 26 hours; 7,500 to Hawaii in 48 hours. Or one could fly a round trip between Boston and Bristol, England, in 24 hours. If a 21-passenger plane, stripped for freight-carrying, has a capacity of three tons, the *Constellation* will probably be able to load up with nearly three times as much cargo—between eight and nine tons.

Whether employed for freight or passengers, the new plane thus has engaging possibilities from a military standpoint. It may be the answer to the problem of carrying U. S. Army expeditionary forces across great reaches of ocean. Present troop transports, of course, require the protection of a great many warships. If planes can be employed instead, naval vessels would be freed for attacking the enemy.

From the Press

THE following is an excerpt from a speech said to have been made in 168 B. C. in the Roman assembly by Lucius Aemilius Paulus, who had been selected to conduct the war with the Macedonians. Edwin A. Lahey, writing in the *Chicago Daily News*, thinks it is quite applicable today to those who constantly criticize the prosecution of the war:

In every circle and, truly, at every table, there are people who lead armies into Macedonia, who know where the camp ought to be placed, what posts ought to be occupied by troops, when and through what pass that territory should be entered, where magazines should be formed, how provisions should be conveyed by land and sea, and when it is proper to engage the enemy, when to lie quiet.

And they not only determine what is best to be done, but if anything is done in any other manner than what they have pointed out, they arraign the consul as if he were on trial before them.

These are great impediments to those who have the management of affairs. . . . Commanders should be counseled, chiefly, by persons of known talent; by those who have made the art of war their particular study and whose knowledge is derived from experience. . . .

If, therefore, anyone thinks himself qualified to give advice respecting the war which I am to conduct, let him not refuse his assistance to the state, but let him come with me into Macedonia. . . . But if he thinks this too much trouble and prefers the repose of a city life to the toils of war, let him not, on land, assume the office of a pilot. The city in itself furnishes abundance of topics for conversation; let it confine its passion for talking within its own precincts.



IN his syndicated column, Walter Lippmann recently pointed to our aging government, and urged that young blood be brought in to rejuvenate it:

President Roosevelt is attempting to conduct the war through men who are no longer in their "full mental and physical vigor" . . . many of them "unable to perceive their own infirmities." He now has a cabinet to conduct the war which is on the average substantially older than the Supreme Court. The average age of the Roosevelt cabinet today is 62 years; of the Supreme Court it is a little under 57 years. In the cabinet there is only one man under 50, and there are only three more under 60.

The four men most directly concerned with the conduct of the war itself are at an average age of 70 years. Thus Mr. Roosevelt begins his tenth year as President and his first year as Commander-in-Chief in the greatest of all wars with an elderly and rapidly aging administration. It is impossible to believe that with all our naval and military chieftains close to 60 or over it, and with this elderly cabinet, the war is in the hands of men who are in the vigor of their lives.

Successful wars are fought and are conducted by young men. [We must] raise up quickly the younger executives, the men in their thirties and forties, who are used to the modern world, can bear the strain upon mind and body.

What greater thing can an old man do for his country in a time like this than to pass on the torch to the new generation, and then to step down from his post of command and into the council chamber where mature reflection and not the energy to act are required of him?

IN the opinion of the Kansas City *Star* editor, Americans are willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to win the war, but they do not feel that they can win by keeping long faces. "Must we be gloomy?" the writer asks:

A lot of people these days are asking, "Why must we be scolded all the time? What have we failed to do for the war effort that we might be doing?"

Day in and day out, statements from Washington and elsewhere have hammered against the complacency of the American people. We are told that we must realize the possibility of losing the war. We are smug. We smile too much. We aren't sufficiently heartick. We still like to sleep on an innerspring mattress.

But what are the people supposed to do that they aren't doing? American boys have lined up at the recruiting offices faster than the government could induct them into service. Others have signed up for selective service and gone into the Army without a complaint. In this season of income tax reports, the biggest American tax in history has aroused few of the complaints that were heard over the smaller taxes of other years. And everybody seems reconciled to a much heavier load next year.

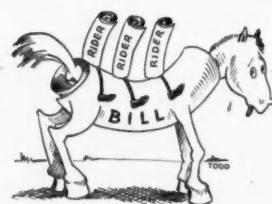
In Kansas City alone, thousands of men have been thrown out of work temporarily in this transition from peacetime to war production. But you haven't heard a lot of yelling about it. Men know it is a necessary part of the war effort. Every civilian defense enrollment gets a good response. Red Cross drives have gone over the top.

RECENTLY the farm bloc in Congress threatened to force a certain minor bill past the objections of the President by attaching it as a rider on the \$32,000,000,000 war funds bill. W. K. Kelsey, in the *Detroit News*, makes some pertinent observations on this much-criticized legislative procedure:

Senator Vandenberg wants an amendment to the Constitution to stop the practice of attaching congressional riders to bills the President, opposing the rider, feels he must sign. Thus Congress defeats the President's veto power.

It takes an obstinate and courageous President to veto a whole bill to defeat a rider. President Taft in 1913 vetoed an appropriation bill because it contained a rider exempting labor unions from the operation of the Sherman antitrust law. In 1919, President Wilson vetoed an appropriation bill because of a rider establishing daylight-saving time; whereupon Congress split the bills, and the President signed the one and vetoed the other. Then Congress passed the daylight-saving bill over his veto.

In all but nine states, the governor now has the right to veto separate items in appropriation bills. As long ago as 1873, President Grant recommended that the Chief Executive be given this power, and in 1938 President Roosevelt renewed the request. But it is hard to move Congress to give up any of its methods.



News Quiz of the Week

"We and They"

1. To what was Hitler referring when he spoke of two worlds in conflict, one of which "must break asunder"?
2. How does the Nazi idea of the role of the individual differ from our conception?
3. What are the important civil liberties enjoyed under a democratic government?
4. How is business regulated under National Socialism?
5. What is the Nazi policy toward labor unions?

The Near East

1. What military advantage would Hitler enjoy by dominating the Near East?
2. Which are the important countries of the Near East?
3. Why does the French fleet figure prominently in all Near Eastern calculations?
4. What is the economic value of the Near East to Germany?
5. In what way has Hitler strengthened his position in West Africa?

